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1961

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

of the

Urban Sanitary Authority

of

EAST DEREHAM

Norfolk





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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

A.B. GUILD, M.B., Ch.B.D.P.H., D.I.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

C.McD. O'DONNELL, M.B.E., M.A.P.H.I.

Waterworks Superintendent

R.R. TYE

EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1961

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Wright and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1961.

The estimated mid-year population was 7,180, an increase of 190 over that of the preceding year.

121 live births, of which 5 were illegitimate were registered during the year, and there were 88 deaths from all causes.

The crude birth rate, 16.85 was the highest for the last ten years. When this figure of 16.85 is multiplied by 0.99, the births comparability factor, the resulting figure of 16.84 is then comparable with the rate for England and Wales (17.4) or with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The illegitimate live births accounted for 4.13% of the total live births.

There were no still births during the year.

Even more pleasing is it to report that no deaths occurred in infants under the age of one year. This has not previously been recorded. Nevertheless it is fitting to pay tribute to those who have brought this result about - namely, the family doctors, midwives, health visitors and district nurses.

The number of deaths, 88, was the same as last year. This gives a crude death rate of 12.26, and, using the deaths comparability factor of 0.90, an adjusted death rate of 11.03 results. The England and Wales rate was 12.0.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

162 cases of infectious disease were notified and measles was responsible for 115 of these.

Only 2 cases of dysentery were notified as compared with the unfortunate high incidence (123) in the previous year. It is recognised that outbreaks of vomiting and diarrhoea occurred several times during the year but the family doctors were quite satisfied that these were not dysenteric in nature.

Later in this report you will note that your Public Health Inspector comments on the continuous watch kept on food premises.

The single case of food poisoning was undoubtedly contracted during the individual's holiday at Yarmouth in July.

Excluding pneumonia only one death was attributable to measles - in this case the rare complication of encephalitis supervened.

The incidence of the notifiable diseases is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years and the second table giving the age distribution.

<u>Disease</u>	1961	1960	1959	1958
Scarlet fever	2	3	5	3
Erysipelas	-	1	1	-
Measles	115	191	10	33
Whooping cough	32	103	-	2
Pneumonia	5	2	4	8
Meningitis	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	2	123	1	-
Food poisoning	1	2	1	-
Infectious hepatitis	5	4	1	-
Total	162	430	23	46

Age Groups

<u>Disease</u>	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	4	11	22	24	14	31	6	-	2	1	-	-	-
Whooping cough	1	5	4	4	5	4	3	1	2	-	1	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-

	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Infectious hepatitis	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	16	26	28	21	38	12	2	4	1	2	2	5

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year three cases were added to the register, one of these being an inward transfer.

The comparative figures for the previous three years were:-

1960 - 4

1959 - 6

1958 - 4

The distribution of the three cases by age and sex was:-

<u>Age Period</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	
	M	F
36 - 45	-	1(a)
46 - 55	1	-
66 - 75	1	-
	2	1(a)

(a) denotes one inward transfer.

No deaths were due to tuberculosis this year.

The numbers remaining on the register were:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		Total	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		Total	<u>Grand Total</u>
	M	F		M	F		
31.12.60.	19	11	30	2	3	5	35
31.12.61.	20	12	32	2	3	5	37

B.C.G. Vaccination.

The normal programme for school children aged 13 years and above was carried out in the schools in my area. The work done is summarised as under:-

(1) Number who refused skin testing	47
(2) Number whose forms were not returned	23
(3) Number skin tested	219
(4) Number found positive	68
(5) Number found negative	150
(6) Number vaccinated	141

The percentage of children giving a positive skin test was 31, appreciably higher than last year's figure of 19. I am unable to explain why there should have been this increase though it is not unreasonable to expect fluctuations from year to year.

As in previous years any child giving a brisk positive reaction was referred to the Chest Physician for further examination, but in no case was any further investigation considered necessary.

X-ray Survey.

The Norwich Mass Radiography Unit visited Dereham for the period 27th February - 17th March, 1961, and 3,580 miniature x-ray examinations were carried out with the following results.

Number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis found

(a) Requiring treatment or close clinical supervision	2
(b) Cases requiring observation at the Chest Clinic	5
(c) Inactive post primary lesions	16
(d) Previously diagnosed cases	6

Cancer of the Lung.

Five deaths were ascribed to this cause during the year - 3 males aged 45, 46 and 81 respectively, and 2 females aged 61 and 66.

Causes of Death.

These are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles	-	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	7	7	14
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	4	11
Coronary disease, angina	11	6	17
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart diseases	8	7	15
Other circulatory disease	-	2	2
Pneumonia	4	-	4
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	1	4	5
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	1	-	1
	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 88 <hr/>

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	5,313
Population (estimated mid 1961)	7,180
Rateable value	£78,808
Estimated product of a penny rate	£310

MEDICAL STATISTICS

Extracts from vital statistics for the year relating to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General:-

				E. Dereham 1961	1960	England & Wales 1961
	Males	Females	Total			
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	59	57	116			
Illegitimate	1	4	5			
	60	61	121			
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				16.85	15.59	17.4
Adjusted Birth Rate				16.84		
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	0	0	0	0	27.0	18.7
<u>DEATHS</u> (All ages)	48	40	88			
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				12.26	12.73	12.0
Adjusted Death Rate				11.03		
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (under 1 year)	0	0	0			
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births				0	45.9	21.4

Immunisation Schemes.

The only major change in the various schemes was that a fourth polio injection was offered to children between the ages of 5 and 12.

The format of the returns submitted to the Ministry of Health was changed during the year and it is therefore not possible to compare strictly the figures given later with the tables in previous annual reports. The situation with regard to diptheria immunisation continues to be satisfactory, and will stand comparison with any other district.

The immunisation against tetanus progressed steadily in school children. The same cannot be said in the case of adults and it is disappointing to learn from general practitioners that a large number of people fail to complete the course of three injections.

Work completed during the year by general practitioners and the Assistant County Medical Officer is detailed in the following tables.

Born during	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956-1	1950-46	Total	
<u>Diphtheria Only</u>									
Primary	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	4	79	55	<u>138</u>	
							Total	140	
<u>Diphtheria & Whooping Cough</u>									
Primary	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	<u>5</u>	
							Total	8	
<u>Diphtheria & Tetanus</u>									
Primary	-	1	2	1	2	14	3	23	
<u>Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus</u>									
Primary	45	53	3	5	3	4	-	113	
Reinforcing	-	-	1	2	2	7	-	<u>12</u>	
							Total	125	
<u>Tetanus Only</u>									
							1945 & before		
Primary	-	2	1	3	8	95	63	72	244
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	<u>6</u>
							Total	250	

By the end of the year a course of three injections had been completed by the following:-

(1) Born 1956 - 1961	898
(2) Born 1943 - 1955	1,913
(3) Born 1933 - 1942	1,432
(4) Born before 1932 but under 40	612
(5) Others	<u>109</u>
Total	<u>4,964</u>

In addition to the above 2,093 children had completed the 4th. injection - 238 in the group born in the years 1956 - 1961, and 1,855 in the years 1943 - 1955. The grand total of 3rd. and 4ths. is therefore 7,057.

Smallpox Vaccinations

The very satisfactory vaccination state of infants has been improved upon this year and for this every credit must be given to the family doctors.

	Under 1	1-	2-4	5-14	15 & Over	Total
Primary	87	9	4	5	6	111
Revaccination	-	-	-	2	7	<u>9</u>
					Total	<u>120</u>

HOUSING

The number of houses erected in 1961 was:-

- (1) By the Council 24
- (2) By private enterprise 105

This brings the number of houses built by the Council in the post-war period up to 444.

Closing orders were made on 23 houses bringing the total dealt with in this manner to 95.

The number of applicants on the waiting list at the end of the year was 120.

The Grove, Littlefields

The Housing Officer submitted a report on the condition of the pre-fabricated bungalows at this site.

Attention was drawn to the increasing metal corrosion on the aluminium cladding and other parts. Once corrosion has started nothing can be done to arrest its progress so that repairs of a permanent nature are impracticable.

Maintenance costs are being kept to a minimum.

The Housing Officer recommended that consideration should be given to the removal of all the bungalows within a period of 5 years.

Baxter Row Development

With the exception of the Rose Public House site this development, comprising 8 old persons bungalows, 16 old persons flats, 16 3-bedroom maisonettes and a Communal room, has been completed.

The site had to be cleared in stages and clearing was commenced in May 1958 and finished in May 1960. In all 58 properties were removed.

Roadworks commenced in February 1960, and the whole contract was completed by April 1962.

Council House Improvements

The improvement of pre-war Council Houses by the construction of a bathroom, internal W.C. and the installation of domestic hot water system has been carried out in:-

2 houses at Etling Green
26 houses at Jubilee Avenue
6 houses at Sandy Lane

Work is in progress at 6 houses in Sandy Lane and 24 houses in Northgate.

Improvement Grants

The number of grants approved in 1961 was:-

Standard grants	19
Discretionary grants	1

These approvals have involved the installation of the following amenities:-

baths 19, wash hand basins 19, hot water supply 20, W.C's 12 and larders 5.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946

Local Health Services under Part 111.

Domestic Help Service

49 occasional home helps were employed in the district during the year and 26 cases were assisted in East Dereham.

Mental Health - Administration

Mr. A. Boothman, Welfare Officer, remained in charge.

Under the Mental Health Act of 1959 16 patients were admitted to mental hospitals. 13 of these were informal admissions, the same procedure as that for admission to any hospital, and the remaining 3 were by order in which the application for admission was made in each case by a relative with the assistance of the Mental Welfare Officer.

Two aged persons suffering from senile dementia were admitted to the Vale Hospital, Swainsthorpe.

Subnormal Persons

There are 17 persons registered as being subnormal and of this number 11 are classified as being severely subnormal.

3 attend the Norwich Adult Training Centre and 6 attend the Junior Training Centre at Sprowston. Transport is either provided or paid for by the County Council.

Old Persons Welfare

Both the Dereham and Toftwood Old People's Clubs are active and the Dereham Club is in the process of building its own permanent clubroom and premises.

9 aged persons were admitted to Part 111 accommodation (County Homes or Hostels) provided by the County Council and of these 9 three were admitted to the new St. Nicholas House in Dereham.

No cases were dealt with under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i)Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	20	-	-
(ii)Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	46	52	-	-
(iii)Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding workers premises.)	9	20	-	-
Total:	61	92	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	No. of cases in which prosecutions Instituted.
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY

Eight water samples were taken for bacteriological examination from four shallow wells all of which were found to be unfit. Two wells were replaced by deep bores, one by a supply from the town mains, and the fourth was abandoned as the property it supplied was closed for human habitation.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Stage II of the works extension commenced in April and is proceeding satisfactorily despite the difficulties encountered from springs and bad weather.

Three new drying beds are completed and the remainder together with the upward flow settlement tanks, filter and digestion tanks should be finished by mid 1962. Detritus channels, new humus tanks, conversion of the existing settlement tanks to storm tank and general completion of Stage II is expected before the end of next year.

A deep combined sewer in Commercial Road which has been blocking fairly regularly over the last ten years, blocked three times in July and on two occasions during the year, specialist equipment had to be brought in to clear the silt and boulders which drop into the main sewer from cavities above it.

The Council decided the sewer should be relaid and the contract was let in the latter part of the year. Work started in November. Little effective headway has been made to date.

Last year's report gave the number of properties on night soil to be 280 and stated the Council intended to discontinue its collection on 31st. October, 1961. A survey in September showed the number of properties on night soil to be 242 of which 64 were unsewerable, 80 were substandard houses, leaving 98 properties worth connecting. On being advised the number would be reduced to 70 when the proposals in hand or contemplated were completed the Council agreed to continue night soil collection.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is collected weekly in the central area and the monthly collection in the outlying districts has been increased to fortnightly.

Strenuous efforts were made to keep the fly nuisance within bounds on the Hoe tip and in the main they must have been successful as no complaints were received from residents in the area.

The Council are negotiating the purchase of a 20 acre disused gravel pit for use as a refuse tip some four miles outside Dereham. The site is open to view and no doubt tipping there will be criticized but it will ultimately fill and restore the pit area to its original ground contours instead of allowing it to remain the ugly disfigurement of the landscape, which it is at the moment.

SMOKE NUISANCE

In the past one looked to the industrial area for smoke, but happily for Dereham it has practically been eliminated there. Now the highest short time concentrations are to be found on new housing estates where coal is freely used on modern fuel appliance which are well suited for using coke and other smokeless fuels. Perhaps the trouble lies in the name of the fuel supplier the Coalman or Coal Merchant, which begs the traditional order "a bag of coal". Let him be called the Solid Fuel Supplier or Solid Fuel Merchant thus giving other fuels an equal chance with coal, and the nation, far less smoke.

CAMPING AND CARAVAN SITES

There are no camping sites in the district. Five individual caravans have been licensed to stand in private gardens and one site for six caravans.

The Council have adopted the Model Standards for Caravan site control suggested by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government with a few important additions as to fire precautions and drainage.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

The following table summarises inspections during the year:-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notices</u>	<u>Statutory Notices</u>
Drainage	286	2	-
Factories, workshops and bakehouses	94	1	-
Slaughterhouses and butchers shops	250	-	-
Food shops	60	-	-
Cowsheds, dairies, etc.	10	1	-
Restaurants and Hotels	24	-	-
Verminous and filthy premises	1	-	-

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notices</u>	<u>Statutory Notices</u>
Housing	117	4	11
Nuisances	50	-	-
Infectious diseases	1	-	-
Rats and mice	54	-	-
Refuse collection	10	-	-
Nightsoil	350	-	-
Water supply	8	-	-

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

One case requiring disinfection was attended to.

MILK SUPPLY

The number of milk distributors in the district has been reduced from 6 to 4. Only one questionable milk bottle was found this year which speaks highly of the care exercised by the producers and distributors.

ICE CREAM

Seven Grade I samples were taken during the year and one Grade II.

FOOD INSPECTION AND CONDEMNATION

Food premises inspected were found to be clean and well maintained. Personal cleanliness, food wrapping, etc., are being watched continuously and it is greatly to the credit of the traders that I have had no difficulties in this respect during the year.

The following foods were condemned:-

238 packets of mallow biscuits.
 $9\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. coconut mallow.
 1 pig carcase.
 1 chicken carcase.
 9 lbs. ham.
 4 lbs. pressed ham.
 11 lbs. 15 ozs. shoulder.
 11 lbs. $8\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. cooked fore-end.
 6 lb. corned beef.

MEAT INSPECTION

No case of cysticercus bovis was found during the year.

The following animals were slaughtered:-

Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
576	2	792	1440

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

<u>INSPECTED</u>	576	2	792	1440
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TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses in which some organ or part condemned	12	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.08	-	-	-

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses in which some organ or part condemned	32	-	-	5
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	5.55	-	-	0.34

AGRICULTURE ACT, 1956

On the occasions when gang labour was found to be working in the district the requirements of the Act were complied with. Farm premises were inspected during the year.

REPORT OF THE MANAGER, WATER DEPARTMENT

WATER SUPPLY

The average daily consumption was 208,529 gallons as compared with 189,836 gallons in the previous year. The total yearly consumption was 76,103,300 gallons, an increase of 6,623,200 gallons or 8.5% over the preceding year.

The highest daily consumption was 275,900 gallons on July 15th. 1961.

Total yearly consumption	76,103,300 gallons
Increase over preceding year	6,623,200 "
1951/52 Total yearly consumption	51,528,300 "
1961/62 " " "	76,103,300 "
Percentage of increase over last 10 years -	32%
Total yearly domestic water used	58,860,300 "
" " industrial " "	17,243,000 "
Total number of metered supplies	156
Average daily consumption	208,529 "
Average gallons per head per day (less industrial)	23.1 "
Average daily gallons used by industry	47,213 "
Average daily pumping hours	25
Estimated total population supplied	6,980
Number of houses supplied with Town water	2,476
Total number of houses in Toftwood (where mains are available but not connected)	10
Average number of persons per house	3.2

NEW CONNECTIONS AND SUPPLIES

173 new connections and supplies have been added to the distribution system during the year. This is an increase of 49 over the preceding year. Plans for a further 180 houses at Toftwood with further development at Larner's Drift and Stone Road have already been approved. Further development is foreseen at Westfield Lane where accommodation for 40 houses is envisaged.

As stated in my previous report Dereham's water supply will be severely taxed to meet this future demand which will be required to give an adequate supply at all times. The supply has increased 32% during the last 10 years, with no additional source of supply.

A yield test was carried out on both bores during February 1961 as follows:-

Bore-holes Nos.1 and 3 with continuous pumping from both bores, 280,000 to 300,000 gallons.

MAINS AND EXTENSIONS

200 yards of 3" main has been installed at Norwich Road to supply the Eckling Grange Chalets. 270 yards of 3" main installed at Emelson Close.

HEADWORKS

A new ground level temporary storage tank with a capacity of 100,000 gallons has been erected and was commissioned on 26th. March, 1962.

NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN

Bacteriological	-	6	
Chemical	-	1	(The result is given as an appendix)

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. Guild.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

25th. July, 1961.

Cert. No. M.1080.
Lab. No. 2364/W.

Sample received 17th. July, 1961 from East Dereham U.D.C.

Marked Public Supply.

Appearance when received Clear.

Nature of Deposit Nil.

Colour Nil.

Odour Nil.

Reaction Neutral pH. 7.3

Taste Satisfactory.

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

<u>Ammoniacal nitrogen</u>	0.03	<u>Hardness as CaCO₃</u>	
<u>Albuminoid nitrogen</u>	0.03	<u>Total</u>	260
<u>Nitrate nitrogen</u>	Nil	<u>Carbonate (temporary)</u>	230
<u>Nitrite nitrogen</u>	Nil	<u>Non-carbonate (permanent)</u>	30
<u>Chlorine as Chlorides</u>	22	<u>Alkalinity as CaCO₃</u>	230
<u>Oxygen absorbed</u> (4 hr. 27° C.)	0.35	<u>Free carbon dioxide</u>	29
		<u>Total solids (at 180° C.)</u>	330
		<u>Iron (total)</u>	0.14
		<u>Metals in solution, other than iron-absent</u>	Nil

OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality. There is no evidence of pollution from the chemical analysis, which is extremely similar to that reported in our Cert. No.188.K. of the 1st. December, 1958. The total hardness approximates to about 18° Clark, most of which is temporary in nature. The reaction is on the alkaline side of neutrality and the free carbon dioxide is not unduly high so that the water would not be expected to have any seriously corrosive action towards metals. Metallic contamination is absent, apart from the trace of iron. The clarity, odour and taste are all very satisfactory

and in our opinion, on the chemical evidence, this water is very suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

for Lincolne Sutton & Wood Ltd.

(signed) Eric C. Wood.

